

## Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ASEC, BF  
SUBJ: PERSONNEL SECURITY IN NASSAU AND FREEPORT

1. ONE OF THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS FACING THE EMBASSY IS PROVIDING ADEQUATE PERSONAL SECURITY FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL ASSIGNED HERE. INCLUDED IN THIS CONTEXT ARE STATE, NAVY AND IRS PERSONNEL AND THE CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND AGRICULTURE PRECLEARANCE PERSONNEL WORKING AT THE NASSAU AND FREEPORT AIRPORTS.

2. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS INSTANCES OF BREAK-INS, MUGGINGS AND ONE RAPE EXPERIENCED BY AMERICAN PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT. WHILE THE MAJORITY OF THESE CRIMES HAVE BEEN WITHOUT VIOLENCE, THE CRIMES THEMSELVES COULD HAVE RESULTED IN BLOODSHED IF PEOPLE WERE HOME AT THE TIME OF THE ROBBERY OR IF THEY HAD PUT UP ANY RESISTENCE. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN DOING AS MUCH AS IT CAN TO MAKE NEWLY ARRIVED PERSONNEL AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM BY BRIEFING THEM ON WHERE NOT TO LIVE BECAUSE OF HIGH INCIDENTS OF CRIME AND THE BEST WAY TO SECURE THEIR HOMES WITH RESIDENCE PROTECTIVE DEVICES, SUCH AS LOCKS, HOME ALARM SYSTEMS AND SECURITY SCREENS. IN THIS REGARD, THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN FURNISHING PERSONNEL, WITHIN ITS LIMITED SUPPLY, WITH SY-FURNISHED PROTECTIVE DEVICES. ALTHOUGH THESE DEVICES HAVE HAD LIMITED SUCCESS

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IN PREVENTING BREAK-INS AND ROBBERIES OF THOSE HOMES ADEQUATELY SECURED, OTHERS WITH A LESSER AMOUNT OF SECURITY HAVE BEEN EASILY ENTERED AND ROBBED. WITHIN THE PAST TWO WEEKS TWO HOMES HAVE BEEN BROKEN INTO AND ROBBED. ONE OF THE HOMES WAS BROKEN INTO TWICE WITHIN A PERIOD OF TEN DAYS. FORTUNATELY, AT THE TIME OF THE ROBBERIES THE OCCUPANTS WERE AWAY

FROM THEIR HOMES. IN BOTH CASES, SOME OF THE DOORS AND WINDOWS WERE SECURED WITH EMBASSY ISSUED LOCKS, DOOR CHAINS, ETC. HOWEVER, THESE DO NOT PREVENT DETERMINED THIEVES FROM ENTERING HOUSES AS THEY BREAK THROUGH WINDOWS OR DOORS BY USING JIMMY BARS OR OTHER BREAK-IN TOOLS. HOMES WHICH HAVE INSTALLED SECURITY SCREENS ON DOORS AND WINDOWS HAVE, FROM EXPERIENCE, A HIGHER SAFETY FACTOR AS ROBBERS SEEING THIS TYPE OF PROTECTIVE DEVICE DO NOT AS A RULE BOTHER TO ATTEMPT ENTRY. THOSE HOMES LACKING THESE SAFETY DEVICES ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE TO ENTRY.

3. THE DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAM OF SUPPLYING RESIDENCE PROTECTIVE DEVICES TO POSTS HAVING A HIGH RATE OF CRIME IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM OF PREVENTING FORCED ENTRY HAS APPRECIABLY AMELIORATED EVEN WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THESE DEVICES. A SURER METHOD WOULD BE BY PROVIDING SECURITY SCREENS TO PERSONNEL FOR INSTALLATION ON THOSE EXPOSED WINDOWS AND DOORS OF THEIR HOMES. WITH THE INSTALLATION OF SECURITY SCREENS THE NUMBER OF LOCKS, ETC. ISSUED TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL COULD BE REDUCED AND COULD FROM A COST STANDPOINT BE USED AS AN OFFSET FOR THE COST OF PURCHASING SECURITY SCREENS. IF A PROGRAM OF THIS TYPE COULD BE STARTED, THE EMBASSY WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF SY COULD PURCHASE A SUPPLY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STANDARD SIZE SECURITY SCREENS AND KEEP THEM IN STOCK FOR ISSUANCE TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL. THESE WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING, IN WRITING, THAT (1) THE SCREENS WOULD REMAIN GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AND WILL BE REMOVED FROM HOMES WHEN A PERSON IS TRANSFERRED AND (2) THE COST OF INSTALLATION AND REMOVAL WOULD BE BORNE BY THE INDIVIDUAL.

4. WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS TYPE OF PROGRAM, PERSONAL SAFETY WOULD BE INCREASED TO GIVE ALL PERSONNEL AND ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH CHILDREN A GREATER SENSE OF SECURITY. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST AS WELL AS ANY PROGRAMS USED AT OTHER EMBASSIES WITH HIGH OR GROWING INCIDENCE OF CRIME.  
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**Concepts:** n/a  
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